

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: ) Art Unit:  
Hikaru TAKAKURA et al ) Examiner:  
Appln. No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED ) Washington, D.C.  
Filed: April 2001 ) April 24, 2001  
For: U. STABLE PROTEASE) Docket No.: TAKAKURA=1A  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

contemporaneous with the filing of this case and prior  
to calculation of a filing fee and examination on the merits,  
kindly d as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

1, after the title, insert as new lines

-- **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

is is a divisional of application no. 08/894,818,  
filed A .c 29, 1997, which is a 371 national stage application  
of PCT/ 3253, filed November 7, 1996, the entire contents of  
both app ons being incorporated herein by reference.--

Pages 8-9, please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, the present inventors prepared a hybrid gene encoding a hybrid protease, i.e., a fusion protein from both proteases, and confirmed that an enzyme expressed by hybrid gene showed the protease activity at high temperature like the above hyperthermostable protease.--

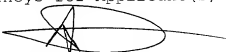
REMARKS

The amendments are being made to provide consistency with the amendments to the specification of the parent application. In addition, a Cross-Reference to Related Application section is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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**"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN THE SPECIFICATION"**

Pages 8-9, please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, the present inventors ~~made~~ prepared a hybrid gene encoding a hybrid protease, ~~which was a chimera i.e.,~~ a fusion protein from both proteases, and confirmed that an enzyme expressed by ~~the~~ hybrid gene showed the protease activity under at high temperature conditions as like the above hyperthermostable protease ~~which resulted in the completion of the present invention.--~~